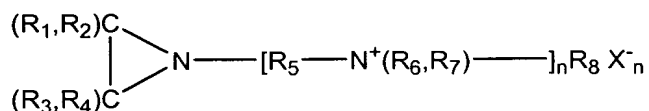


Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and compositions for selectively modifying nucleic acid molecules in biological compositions, including contacting the composition with an inactivating agent
5 having the formula:



where each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 is, independently, H or a monovalent
10 hydrocarbon moiety containing between 1 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive, provided that R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 cannot all be H; R_5 is a divalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 2 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive; X is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion; and n is an integer between 2 and 10, inclusive are disclosed.